MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

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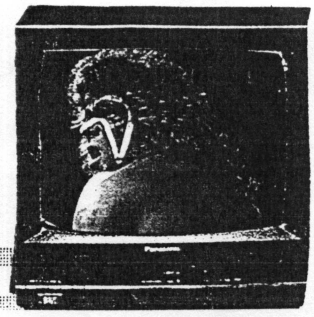


THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WGN, WPIX SAID UNHAPPY WITH SHOWS

NEW YORK---Executives of national cable superstations WGN and WPIX are said to be unhappy with what they consider "near-duplication" of the two stations' NWA wrestling programs.

Under the title NWA PRO WRESTLING, the two stations are airing the same matches with different host wraparounds (Jim Ross & Paul E. Dangerously in New York and Jack Brickhouse and Tony Schiavone in Chicago).

One NWA executive was summoned to New York for a meeting with WPIX officials last week and MATWATCH has been told the station is upset that the wrestling content is virtually the same as on the WGN show the same morning.

SAMOANS SWITCH TO GA. ALL-STAR

ATLANTA---Only three days after an alleged dressing room incident with NWA booker Ole Anderson, the Samoan Swat Team have moved to Georgia All-Star Wrestling.

The SST appeared in a four-week taping skein for GAS with some reportedly blunt interviews.

Inside sources report two stories on the incident with Anderson. The Samoans claim they had a physical confrontation with Anderson while NWA insiders say the dispute was strictly a loud, verbal one. Anderson fired the Samoans Sept. 19.

"FANS JAM" LINEUP FINALIZED FOR FRIDAY

ATLANTA---Wrestling writers and three wrestling radio talk show hosts will participate in the GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM special Friday night on THE WRESTLING HOTLINE.

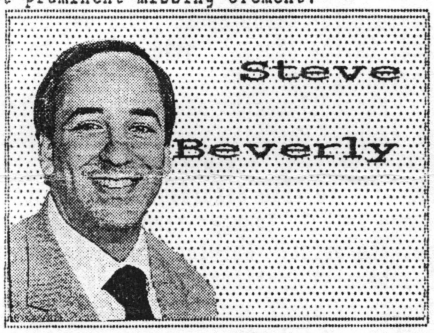
The lineup (all times EDT): (7:00) NWA announcers; (8:00) Lex Luger; (8:30) Sting; (9:00) Writers: Bill Apter, Dennis A. Brent, George Napolitano, Sandy Krebs; (10:00) Talk hosts: Larry Katz, Kimberly Murphy, Joel Goodhart.

Bring Back Jim

COULD WE GET A LITTLE MORE CORNY?

In the 1960s, Howard Cosell called virtually every major boxing match on closed-circuit TV. Until 1970---the "Fight of the Century." Frazier-Ali. A promoter decided to make hay without Cosell and cast Howard as a villain. In his autobiography, Cosell called it "one of the greatest things that ever happened to me. Sometimes, you realized you are missed."

Someone has been cast in a similar exile on wrestling television since late May. Despite NWA Saturday ratings staying mostly in the upper 2 range over the summer and a booker deciding certain heel commentators could not retain their heat by staying on mike (some of which has been retracted), most weeks prior to the Scott Steiner upset of Ric Flair, hardcore fans have found WCW painfully dull and I can cite you the most prominent missing element.



One does not have to return Jim Cornette to a mike for two full hours. I'm told, in fact, after months on the now-defunct NWA booking committee and long nights of developing TV lineups, Cornette was a bit relieved to get off the weekly WCW grind. But that should not have meant relegating him to a speck as small as Fargo, Georgia, on a Rand McNally atlas. Oh, I've been told, "But he does THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER." Anyone who has been even a sporadic follower of NWA shows back to the TBS Jim Crockett era knows the current incarnation of SLUGGER reduces Cornette to no more than a mikeholder. I've been told, "But he still does interviews." Or this one: "He still comes to the ring with the Midnight Express and gets involved as much as he ever did."

In the days when Dusty Rhodes patented the all-squash/90-second interview format on TBS, which eventually killed its ratings, Cornette was one of only three who regularly was granted more than a minute and a half (Rhodes and Ric Flair being the other two). Why? Because many weeks, he was THE element worth watching in the show. He could be counted on for the quick one-liner, the insult, the comic relief which regularly saved WCW from itself. Who can forget the week he announced a "hostile takeover" of Jim Crockett Promotions? Or the famous: "We're sportsmen. We're Christian athletes," on his Express in trying to diffuse another act of villainry against The Fantastics. Or the day, after the Express' turn to babyfaces, two weeks after their win over Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard to win the NWA world tag titles, when he scored with the zinger on Anderson's and Blanchard's departure to the WWF: "They're the ones who decided they'd rather switch...than fight," a parody on an old Tareyton cigaret commercial slogan.

Cornette, clearly, is good television, something WCW has little of in its personalities. Relegating him to 20-second soundbites for interviews is like suggesting John Elway should throw only one pass a game. Suggesting Corny's accompaniments of the Express are enough is like saying Barbra Streisand should walk out onto a stage and not sing. THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER, in its most popular structure, involves Cornette in a live arena exchange which personally involves him in a comic insulting fashion with audience reaction, not in a closeted studio pitching to clips in the same fashion as Gordon Solie on WRESTLING NEWS NETWORK. Could you have imagined FUNK'S GRILL conducted in a

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

similar manner? Saying the current SLUGGER exposes Cornette's true talent and value to WCW is like saying COP ROCK is the next revolution in television.

I've often written how Liberace and Elvis Presley are two examples of personalities who stayed off television for ten years in the 1960s to "create a need" for audiences to see them in person.

The WWF has successfully marketed Hulk Hogan as its one and only franchise by keeping him out of the ring on TV except on pay-per-view and NBC specials.

Jim Cornette does not have to co-host a regular show on TBS or in NWA syndication to get his act over or make a valuable contribution. But he is too talented to be wasted in the wasteland where he currently toils. Is it too much to ask for a three or four-minute segment for Cornette to truly get his act over and, in the process, give a boost to the personality of WCW?

About 17 months ago, when a previous booker decided Cornette was no longer needed in WCW, I wrote: "WCW without Jim Cornette on TBS will be like Saturday night without Lawrence Welk." Younger readers didn't really get the point. But for six years, Cornette has been an institution on Saturdays and even though he needs another 21 years to catch up with Mr. Welk's TV longevity, he is that intangible who is needed to balance out wrestling, wrestling, wrestling for two hours.

The need has been created. Gentlemen, can we get a little more Corny, if you please?

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Still Proceeding Slowly

PEDICINO GROUP GAINS MAJOR CREDIT LINE

ATLANTA---Kongi Sports and Entertainment, the internationally-backed group headed by ex-NWA producer/personality Joe Pedicino, has been granted a $25 million line of credit to start a pro wrestling company.

Pedicino received a fax copy of a letter to his chief investor Thursday informing him the "$25 million will be available for any and all startup costs, including the procurement of wrestling talent, television operations and necessary executive personnel."

In a brief statement, Pedicino told MATWATCH: "The money is in the bank. It is secured by a financial trust based in California which regularly provides funding for the Kongi investors. So, this should erase all doubts we will be funded well enough to get going if we decide to do this."

When pressed whether this ensures the launch of a new big-money wrestling federation, Pedicino reiterated his previous remarks: "As I have stated earlier, if it were just a case of money, we would be in business tomorrow. But it takes more than money to run a successful wrestling company and we are not going to get one started until we are certain we can do it right."

Pedicino, who will base the Kongi operation out of offices in suburban Atlanta, acknowledged he would have meeting with unspecified groups this week concerning Kongi but would not elaborate.

The creator and former host of syndication's PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK is still looking for a television distributor and booker/creative director before seeking any specific wrestling talent. Previous negotiations with Fox Broadcasting broke down when Fox signed a one-special deal with the World Wrestling Federation for February.

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

BLOODTHIRSTY PRODUCTIONS, P.O. BOX 659, CANYON TX 79015, is offering colorful BE A FUNKER Terry Funk t-shirts and DOUBLE CROSS RANCH caps. The shirt likeness is a terrific caricature of Terry. They're available in sizes from medium to XXL. The caps and shirts come in pink and orange. Caps: $10.50. Shirts: $12.50. Add shipping/handling of $2.75 for orders of up to $24.00. Check or money order only. No C.O.D.s.

ANGLE, Bill Kunkel's cartoon/commentary bulletin, is out with a new issue. Cost: $2.50 from ANGLE, 330 S. DECATUR, SUITE 152, LAS VEGAS NV 89107.

GREG GOODE, 900 SW 17 ST., FT. LAUDERDALE FL 33315, is trying to find tapes of 1970s Florida shows.

J-MAR PHOTOS, 7671 EASTWOOD ST., REYNOLDSBURG OH 43068, has lots of wrestling photos and memorabilia.

RICKY SHORT, is still looking for Portland shows from March 1990 and for PWF TV shows from April until now. Write to Ricky at RT. 2, BOX 297, GRETNA VA 24557.

FANTASY FEDERATION, Jeff Cohen's imaginative book-your-favorite-matchup bulletin, has a SEND ME A STAMP special. Jeff will give away back issues to anyone who sends a stamp, up to a minimum of four stamps. Send to Jeff at 50 SHELLEY LANE, GREAT NECK NY 11023. Regular subscriptions: $3 for 3 issues.

WRESTLING PERSPECTIVE, Paul MacArthur's and Dave Skolnick's sharp analysis bulletin, has an upcoming issue featuring an interview with a well-known wrestler, promoter and trainer. Paul and Dave did a first-rate job of examining the NWA's situation in Issue 7. Write them for subscription info at: P.O. Box 401, CAMILLUS NY 13031-0401. Highly recommended.

TEXAS ROUNDUP is a recap of arena shows in the Metroplex area. It's $5 for 4 issues from P.O. BOX 75053-2306, GRAND PRAIRIE TX 75053.

TV TEMPO
Sept. 24-30

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Assassin/ Killer Kyle d. Butch Mantel/ Jeff Gamble; [REPLAY] Superstar-Moondog Max brawl; Gary Saxton d. Glamour Boy. DOUBLE BOMB!!

(WWF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Legion of Doom d. Bobby Salsa/ Ron Cumberland; (UPDATE/From CHALLENGE) Bossman puts cuffs on Bobby Heenan at announce table, drags BH to ring rail & attaches cuffs, leaves Bobby there for 2 matches; Power & Glory d. Mark Thomas/Rico Frederico; (SEGMENT) Tugboat intros Hulk Hogan as "big surprise;" Rick Rude d. Greg Rich; (BRO. LUV) Bruce welcomes Dusty Rhodes; Sgt. Slaughter d. Sonny Blaze; Bushwackers d. Pez Whatley/Scott Colantonio. RESTHOLD. [CHALLENGE]: Warlord d. Barry Hardy; Rhodes d. Paul Perez; Hart Foundation d. Buddy Rose/Whatley; Tito Santana d. Barry O; Orient Express d. Mike Antoli/Ross Lindsay; Other winners: Rhythm & Blues; (MEAN GENE'S CORNER) Rude/Heenan call Bossman's mother "sea hag" and "slimy sop sow." RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Arn Anderson d. Greg Sawyer but DOOM runs in & pummels Arn after; (WRAPUP): Gordon Solie shows clips of Sting-Sid Vicious standoff & Black Scorpion run-in on WCW; Brian Pillman d. Barry Horowitz; J.W. Storm d. Keith Hart; Terry Taylor d. Stan Lane; DOOM d. Chris Hamrick/ Gil Cannatella; Other winners: Nasty Boys. RESTHOLD. [NWA PRO]: Freebirds d. Lou Perez/Allen Iron Eagle; (VIDEO) Freebirds arrive at Holiday Inn in Hollywood; Alan Reynolds d. Stan Hansen by DQ; Lex Luger d. Italian Stallion; [DANGER ZONE]: Paul E. Dangerously reviews DOOM-Horsemen standoff and Vicious-Sting-Scorpion angle; Storm d. Tim Parker; Moondog Rex d. Scotty Williams; Freebirds announce they'll perform live w. Badstreet Band at HALLOWEEN HAVOC; Steiners d. Ring Lords; Final winners: Nasty Boys. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Chris Adams d. Frogman LeBlanc; (RECAPS) Recent history of USWA tag title: Brian Lee/Don Harris d. Rex King/Joey Maggs; Downtown Bruno fires Jeff Gaylord; Lee/Harris d. Gaylord/Jeff Jarrett when Bruno uses object but belts held up; Gaylord/Jarrett win titles. Billy Travis/Brickhouse Brown d. Dog of War/El Diablo. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - [SEGMENT] Jerry Lawler suggests he'll beat up friends if necessary to win back USWA title; [RULING]: Jarrett/Gaylord have USWA tag belts returned; Danny Davis d. Maggs; (ANGLE) Davis calls over Maggs to praise him but Doug Gilbert challenges Davis. Eddie Gilbert offers $2,500 check if Davis can beat Doug; (ANGLE) Tojo Yamamoto demands match for Samurai but Eddie Marlin orders the 2 out. Tojo also says Dave Brown is 70 years old; Jarrett d. Lou Fabiano; Bill Dundee d. Tony Anthony by DQ when following happens: during ref bump, Dundee ducks riding crop & Dirty White Girl nails Tony. Eddie Gilbert runs in, bashes Bill w. chair. Brickhouse Brown tries to save but is ambushed by Doug Gilbert & Sam Lowe. Dundee & Danny Davis, who also tries save, juice. Brick, held in chair, has face painted w. orange and blue makeup by DWG until Marlin clears the area. DRAW.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - [RECAP SHOW]: Sheik-Nick Busich series; Fabian-Steve Lawler series; (From LPWA) Susan Sexton d. Bad Girl; (INTL) Kevin & Kerry Von Erich vs. Tatsumi Fujinami/partner; (CLASSIC) Hercules Ayala d. Sakarata. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: (SPECIAL REPORT) Ultimate Warrior blows up & decks everything in sight looking for Randy Savage; Jimmy Snuka d. Rose; Warlord d. Hardy; L.O.D. d. Frederico/Thomas; R&B d. Mike Williams/Durham; Curt Hennig d. Jim Powers; Bushwackers d. Conquistador/Bob Bradley; (BRO. LUV) Sarge introduces Gen. Adnan as new manager; (ANGLE) Bossman-Heenan CHALLENGE handcuff angle; Bossman d. Paul Perez; P&G d. Hardy/Lindsay; Tugboat d. Chris Duffy; Tito Santana d. Brooklyn Brawler; (SEG) Ted DiBiase shows Sapphire laundering, ironing money; DiBiase d. Lindsay; Nikoli Volkoff d. Boris Zhukov. DRAW.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(ICW) - Superstar Billy Graham d. Bam Bam Bandy; Blackjack Mulligan/Barry Windham d. Scorpion/The Kid; Angel of Death d. Jeff Raitz; Freebirds d. Hamilton/Reagan; Adrian Street d. Mickey Gillan; Iron Sheik d. Eric Tombstone; Bob Orton Jr. d. Bad Bad Leroy Brown. NO RATING OFFERED.

(AWA/ESPN) - [9/17]: {AWA LT. HWT. TITLE}: Buck Zumhofe d. Johnie Stewart to win belt; Brad Rheingans d. Pete Pistolka; (CLIPS) Larry Zbyszko-Harley Race AWA title match; Race d. Kent Carlson; (BEHIND THE 8-BALL MATCH) Curtis Hughes wins over Stewart, Unknown Soldier, Destruction Crew, Zumhofe, Texas Hangmen. BOMB.
[9/24]: (REPLAY of May 14) {MAIN EVENT} Sgt. Slaughter d. Stewart. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - El Pequeno Cobarde/Mascarita Sagrada/Aguilita Solitaria d. Espectritio/Pirata Morgan/MS 1/2 2-3 falls by countout; Devil Musketeers draw vs. Super Astro/El Volador/ Angel Azteca; El Gran Sheik/Abdul/Mike Golden d. Salomon Grondy/El Dandy/El Satanico 2 straight when Satanico turns on Dandy & Ken Timbs runs in to help Golden; Ringo Mendoza/El Hijo del Santo/Lizmark d. Konan/Pero Aguayo/Timbs 2 straight; Atlantis d. Emilio Charles Jr. 2-3; (MASK VS. MASK) El Rayo de Jalisco Jr. d. Cien Caras. PINFALL!

(NEW JAPAN) - {IGWP LT. HWT. TITLE} Pegasus Kid (Chris Benoit) d. Jushin Riger to win belt; (IGWP TAG TITLE) Keiiji Muto/Masa Chono d. Destruction Crew to retain belts; (IGWP WORLD TITLE) Riki Choshu d. Big Van Vader to win belt. PINFALL!

(ALL-JAPAN) - [9/10]: Mitsuhara Misawa/Toshiaka Kawada/ Tsuyoshi Kukuchi d. Mighty Inoue/Akira Taue/Masa Fuchi; Jumbo Tsuruta d. Kenta Kobashi; Terry Gordy/Steve Williams d. Johnny Ace/Stan Hansen. POWERSLAM.
[9/17]: (AJPW TRIPLE CROWN) Hansen d. Williams to keep big 3; Tsuruta d. Misawa. PINFALL!
[9/24]: (ALL-ASIAN TAG TITLE) Ace/Kobashi d. Fantastics to win belts; Fantastics d. Joe Malenko/Kikuchi. NO RATING.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Wendell Cooley d. Lt. James Earl Wright; Blade Hunter Al d. Dave Diamond; (WNN) DOOM run-in on Horsemen vs. Pillman/Zenk; Buddy Landell d. Iron Eagle; Pillman d. Basher; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Cornette reviews DOOM-Horsemen squabbles & interviews Teddy Long; (RUNNING THE GAUNTLET) Bobby Eaton d. Tracy Smothers when Corny shakes Tracy off top rope; (RECAP) Hansen-Luger feud. RESTHOLD. [WCW]: Lex Luger d. Chuck Coates; (WRAPUP) Horsemen-DOOM series; Mike Rotunda/Taylor d. State Patrol; Storm d. Brett

Holliday; (HANDICAP) Junkyard Dog (featuring El Gigante) d. Ring Lords; Moondog Rex d. Reno Riggins; Freebirds d. Sawyer/Hart; (GAUNTLET II) Eaton d. Ricky Morton in 5-min. overtime when Bobby throws Ricky into Stan Lane; (ANGLE) Sting-Scorpion-Vicious angle; Juicer (Art Barr) d. Bill Ford; Nasty Boys d. Brad Armstrong/Lou Perez; (FINAL ANGLE) Hansen, in handcuffs, goes berserk. RESTHOLD.
[MAIN EVENT]: (GAUNTLET III) Vicious d. Eaton.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Paul E. Dangerously/Jim Ross, PH: (PED) "I know a lot of football players: Jim Theismann, Fred McMahon..." (JR) "Joe Theismann." (PED) "Yeah, him, too." 2. Dutch Mantel, WWW: "The governor has declared Flyin' Brian legally stupid. He's TSTL: Too Stupid To Live." 3. Roddy Piper/Vince McMahon, SUPERSTARS, on L.O.D.-Demo: (RP) I wouldn't want to be Jimmy the Greek taking bets on this one." (V) "Then again, who'd want to be Jimmy the Greek?" 4. Mantel/Tony Schiavone, WWW: (TS) "I'm the host of the show." (DM) "Yeah, but Johnny Carson lets Ed McMahon talk sometimes." 5. Craig Johnson, USWA: "I don't know if the Dog of War has been to obedience school." 6. Vince/Piper, WWF-S: (V) "If you like a few nuts on your chocolate, this is your lucky day." (RP) "You're a little chocolate, too. You're a little chunky around the middle & you have a goober in your nose." 7. Piper, WWF-S: "We're hoping someday Roma will be able to dress and undress himself." 8. Ross/Paul E., PH: (JR) "To- morrow night, the Juicer will be on the program." (PED) "I'll take mine orange, thank you." 9. Johnson, USWA, on Dog of War: "Travis pulls his hair...or should I say his coat?" 10. Mantel, WWW: "I went to a great university: Oil Trough State."

11. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on USWA tourney: "I'm gonna break these guys like a New Year's resolution." 12. Danny Davis, WMC, to Doug Gilbert: "The only reason I spent time with you is because your stinkin' brother had no time for you." 13. Tojo Yamamoto, WMC: "Everywhere I go, people ask, 'How old David Brown?' I say 70 year old." 14. Lawler/Dave Brown, WMC: (JL) "The biggest question in wrestling is: how old is Tojo Yamamoto? How old are you Dave?" (DB) "I can tell you Tojo's a lot closer to 70 than I am." 15. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO, on Nasty Boys: "These guys wake up in a bad mood. Of course, if I looked like that, I'd probably wake up in a bad mood." 16. Paul E., NWA: "Don't let your parents down because they brought you up." 17. Sean Mooney/Alfred Hayes, PTW: (AH) "Buddy Rose appears to have dropped some weight." (SM) "What's he doing? Wearing lighter clothes?" 18. Hayes, PTW: "I think Buddy Rose is full of hydrogen." 19. Mooney, PTW, on Bushwacker licks: "That's a tough way to get your glasses cleaned." 20. Paul E., PH, on Iron Eagle: "A teenager with a lot of problems and it has nothing to do with acne."

21. Mike Patrick, ESPN, on South Carolina personal foul penalty: "That may get you a win in the WWF but it gets you a 10-yard penalty here." 22. Brian Pillman, FAMILY FEUD: "I'm not used to being around guys that lie a lot." 23. Tom Zenk, FF, on GLOW women: "I don't know if any of these women could make me jealous."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ray Combs, FAMILY FEUD, to Zenk on Fiji: "If I had to bet, I'd bet she could kick your butt." 2. Lance Russell, NWA PRO, on Hansen: "The only number one ranking he has is in disqualifications. 3. Heenan, PTW, on Dusty Rhodes: "If he had any brains, he'd own the company." 4. Paul E., PH, on Iron Eagle: "He's just like Lawrence Taylor. He deserves to be hurt."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Rude, WWF-S: "You mean all these women here are dog-faced and swine-shaped, like the Bossman's mother?" 2. Piper, WWF-S, on Slaughter: "Has he been studying Iraqian, or how do you say it?" 3. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "Why don't we get the Moondog and the Junkyard Dog and have a Battle of the Dogs." 4. Mooney, PTW: "What is a rush?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. PENNYSLVANIA PAEANS (Rick Rude on Hershey fans). 2. TRIPLE CHIN (Piper on Heenan). 3. MELODY AND MAYHEM (Al Hayes on R&B). 4. OLD SOWBELLY (Heenan on Bossman's mom). 5. THE ANDRE AGASSI OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING (Paul E. on Cornette).

BEST PICTURES - 1. PTW, Heenan-Bossman angle. 2. WWF-S, Piper/McMahon impersonating 'Wackers. 3. WWW, Stan Lane missing racket toss from Cornette. 4. WMC, Dundee-Anthony post-match brawl. 5. PTW, Vince's face when Rude screams at him. 6. PH, Tracy Smothers superkick on Bobby Eaton.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - SOUTHEASTERN, for fuzzy audio on announcers in arena matches.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Arn Anderson, PH: "...time will tell."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. FAMILY FEUD promo, on WCW guys: "The women from GLOW take on the WORLD CLASS wrestlers." 2. Tony Gilliam, WWW: "...and for the U.S. title, Sid Vicious against Stan Hansen." 3. MATWATCH, last week: Our deadline info had the SNME taping for Oct. 13 in Flint MI, instead of Toledo OH, where it was. Also, the Bossman-Earthquake match was taped for SUPERSTARS, not SNME.

BOO AWARD - NWA TOP TEN, for fallacy of Black Scorpion continuing to get title matches while unranked.

TUBE TALK

NWA PRO had a nice new high-tech open Saturday. Too bad the show wasn't that high-tech. Lance & the 'Birds really give their best but there's just so much you can do with those matches....NWA PRO has same theme music as NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL on Sports Channel America....POWER HOUR ratings have been destroyed from two weeks of excruciating runovers from TBS Braves games. The show didn't start until 11:50 p.m. (EDT). Only West Coast & Rocky Mountains had a decent slot.

WWF has had a lot of mileage from the Heenan-Bossman angle, TV-wise. Bobby's reaxes were tremendous....SPORTS CHANNEL plugged debut of UWF WRESTLING for Monday night during its Notre Dame game Saturday....Errors to several west Tennessee newspaper TV books led to our comment of a three-way race from 10-11 a.m. between USWA, NWA and WWF in Memphis. But there IS one. WMC has picked up SCA's Notre Dame football and on weeks the Irish are on, USWA begins at 10:30, against second half of WORLD WIDE and SUPERSTARS on indies.

Tony Zane (as the Black Scorpion) looked like Bela Lugosi's character in the all-time worst movie PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE the way he ran in on Sting Saturday....Randy Culley was last week's Scorpion. Bill Mulkey will probably be it this week (just joking). Scorpion set to take on Brian Pillman at the next Omni show....UWF taping Monday featured mostly draws, double CORs, screw job endings except for one match.

It's funny. I remember last year there was the famous Funk-Flair plastic bag incident. More people were upset by it (than the Gilbert-Lawler car rundown) because of the blatant violence and, yes, I understand that it was a national program but it makes me wonder. It's been on record that Eddie (Gilbert) would go to any lengths for an angle. Why was one incident worse than another? I know the answer to that. I agree less with the hit and run than the bag. At least the bag helped the promotion a bit, while the hit and run didn't. Almost TOO much, in my observation. However, again, this is wrestling we're talking about, so any rules of morality, tact or good sense is out the window. As Bill Dundee once said, "Don't try to make logic outof an illogical business." With that said, now my only complaint is: if they HAD to do it, they didn't follow it through.

Armchair or semipro booker's chair time: get a permit from the local police. Most movie producers have to get this for stuntwork on city streets or local---this eliminates any legal hassles. Do the angle---have an ambulance come and take Jerry to the hospital. A death watch as the program goes off the air. Having Lawler get up and give the interview afterward killed the gimmick. Have the police pick up Gilbert and hold him. Tape Lawler in the hospital, follow Gilbert in the police station. From this point, you could have Lawler videos in rehab...keep him out until the Oct. 8 tournament.

MICHAEL CRAWFORD
BETHLEHEM PA

When I read that Vince (McMahon) announced the formation of the World Bodybuilding Federation, I got very depressed. This will probably mean more roid monsters and less technical wrestlers. I just can't take much more of this. WWF is the only live matches in this state and it's already as bad as it can get.

I keep writing the NWA and telling them there are two more large auditorium facilities here and it's only two more hours over to Omaha. But they don't come.

What am I to do? I'd sell my soul to get to NWA live and if they'd only get anywhere close to here....I guess I'm just destined to a life of match after match of bodyslams and clotheslines and little else. I can just replay my tapes of years past and say, "See. This is what we used to call pro wrestling."

LINDA ADAMS
OMAHA NE

(FSB: Linda, NWA is tentatively scheduled to debut in Omaha either Dec. 6 or 7.)

Read in a recent MATWATCHING that you have some competition for TV (in Memphis) for the 11 a.m. hour. Here's the competition in my area (in Oct.): 10 a.m. (WTBS) NWA POWER HOUR, 10:30 a.m. (WYFF, Greenville SC) SOUTH ATLANTIC WRESTLING, 11 a.m. (WATL) WWF SUPERSTARS, 11 a.m. (WGN) NWA PRO.

Just another note: everyone in my workplace that watches wrestling, and all are marks, believe that the Black Scorpion will turn out to be Sid Vicious. I haven't mentioned to any of them who the "real" scorpion is but I did mention that the Scorpion that wrestled on the CLASH was Al Perez and most disagreed, saying that it had to have been Butch Reed. Interesting how almost everyone of them agreed on that!

LENIS SARGENT
GAINESVILLE GA

YOU SAID IT!!!

About a year and a half ago, you wrote that a stagnation would set in on pro wrestling even worse than the oversaturation we had on television at the time. I think that time is here. I can never think of a time in history any more than now that I am more disinterested in everyone's product. I don't know who the 3.8 million viewers were who watched Sting-Black Scorpion and I don't know how the WWF can continue to draw these 9 ratings in syndication but these people obviously have patience even Job would have envied.

AL MARKBREIT
LEWISTON ME

I appreciate your views on the Lawler-Gilbert angle and I don't disagree with them but you should have been even stronger, as you were with the plastic bag of Funk-Flair. I'm glad the crowd was small the next week at the Mid-South Coliseum because no wrestling angle is worth the message of someone trying to commit murder.

DAN ROSS
SOUTH FULTON KY

RATINGS RAP

ALL-AMERICAN SURPRISES WITH SECOND STRAIGHT WIN

On a surprising roll, WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, usually closer to the ratings cellar, posted its second straight Nielsen win for the week ending Sept. 24, with a 2.9 rating and 7.7 per cent share of audience.

The strong Sunday showing nosed out a rally by TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING (which actually drew more homes) to a 2.8 Sept. 22. WCW increased 33% from its 2.1 low Sept. 15 for its Scott Steiner-Ric Flair and Southern Boys-Midnight Express showdowns. Steiner's successful gauntlet run led NWA MAIN EVENT to a 2.7 opposite NFL competition Sunday. WWF PRIME TIME fell back 13% from the previous week to 2.6. POWER HOUR continued in its depression, hammered by an 11:20 p.m. start time after an extra-inning Braves game.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 24	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/23)	2.9	7.7	1.56 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/22)	2.8	6.1	1.57 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/23)	2.7	5.1	1.51 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/24)	2.6	4.0	1.40 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 9/21)	1.4	3.2	783,000
NWA POWER HOUR (Replay) (TBS 9/22)	0.8	6.7	448,000

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Eddie Gilbert, Bill Dundee, Jerry Lawler and Jeff Jarrett were in a four-man tournament to determine the top seed for the USWA title tourney next week.

WAS HE OR WASN'T HE?: Buddy Landell was reportedly fired and rehired last week from the NWA. The personnel woes continue.

NO CRUISIN': Though the report came from NWA insiders, Chris Cruise says he didn't attempt to seek to return when WCW tried to recruit Terry Funk back and Cruise wonders where the story originated.

NO TERRY: Funk would never 100 per cent rule out a return to the NWA but don't expect him to return there as long as Ole Anderson retains any influence in the group. Some things were said during the time Terry and Ole were both on the old booking panel which Terry has not forgotten.

OUR NEW ANCHORS?: On the floor of the Radio-TV News Directors Association convention I just returned from in San Jose, the UPI TV booth was featuring a promo tape with a news story on wrestling, including an interview with Demolition. Two news directors walked by it and one said, "Hey, I may try to hire those guys as my new anchor team."

JAMMIN' THE JAMMERS: A proposal to have one hour with newsletter editors on the NWA's GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM this Friday was rejected. Not surprised. John Arezzi, in the wake of the recent debacle at the New York FANS FANTASY WEEKEND was also bumped from the radio talk show hosts' hour.

WHO'S RIGHT?: Another denial from some NWA insiders but several people at the tapings last Monday insist Tiny Lister (Zeus) was there asking for a job but was rejected by the front office.

NOW, LET'S DO THE TOP ROPE MOVE: A generator blew in the TV truck during the same tapings in the middle of a Nasty Boys vs. Tommy Rich and jobber match. The guys completed the match but instead of a creative change, as soon as power was restored, Tommy came out with a new jobber and the match was redone with virtually the same moves in the same succession. Fans were even loudly calling the moves: "Now, let's miss move off the top rope. Let's do the clothesline..."

MATWATCHING

IT'S KEIRN AGAIN: I bet Steve Keirn wishes he were the Black Scorpion. He won a handicap match Thursday in Tampa against Johnny B. Lyons and Bodyguard Mark. Mark Starr and Sergeant Rock kept the Florida tag belts against Dick Slater and Hurricane Walker. Mighty Thor also made his debut.

MORE LOSSES: NWA's Sunday morning slot on KTVU in San Fran-Oakland has been a help but the loss of KICU in the burgeoning San Jose area has not helped. The San Jose State arena would be a great place for them to bring a show.

SAN JOSE NOTES: Dave Meltzer took me through every nook and cranny of the San Jose metro area last Tuesday and we had a nice four-hour visit. To others we could not meet up with, hopefully, next trip. The convention kept me very busy. The highlights were addresses by Charles Osgood of CBS and Robert MacNeil of PBS' MACNEIL-LEHRER NEWS HOUR.

BY A THREAD: Kevin Von Erich's WORLD CLASS revival is said to be only tenuously continuing. He's been able to gain no TV in the Dallas area and crowds are waning.

TOJO'S RETURN: Tojo Yamamoto's return with the young Samurai will launch for real at the tournament next Monday. He's a late entry.

LAWLER'S TRAVELING: Lawler will be in North Ridgeville OH a week from Thursday at the Santa Fe Express restaurant/nightclub for a dinner party in conjunction with the FALL BRAWL card in Lorain. Our good friends Bob Stascak and Larry Englebry will be on hand.

DEPARTING HORSEMAN?: About two weeks ago, I was first told Barry Windham may be considering not returning to the NWA in the wake of his injury layoff. That talk is heating up within the circuit and if you'll notice, there hasn't been as much open talk about Barry since the match with Luger on NWA MAIN EVENT.

TAKE IT AS YOU WILL: The Samoans have been telling everyone they beat Ole Anderson to a pulp and no one came to help him. I've also been told that's a broad exaggeration.

NEXT WEEK: We may go one day late, depending on if I'm able to attend the USWA finals in Memphis Monday night.

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